(b) No, Sir. The system is continuing as per provisions of the Act.

(c) No, Sir.

Death of a serving Major near Mathura

1577. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dead body of a serving Defence Officer-Major S. Ravi Shankar, was found by Government Railway Police on 23rd of August near Mathura Railway Station and in the autopsy report it was found that many organs including the kidneys, heart, lungs, spleen and gall bladder were found missing;

(b) if so, whether it was a case of murder for taking out human organs or some foreign agency like ISI was involved whose activities have late been on the rise to demoralise our defence forces; and

(c) the outcome of army investigations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The dead body of Maj. S.Ravi Shankar was found on 23.8.2003. However, based on the statement of the Medical Officer, District Hospital, Mathura, the missing organs could have been crushed due to injuries in the accident or spilled over by sudden impact.

The Army Court of Inquiry into the incident has ruled out the possibility of any foul play for removal of organs.

Military Intelligence souces have also confirmed that there is no input available to suggest that the said case was of murder for extraction of human organs or involvement of ISI/any hostile agency.

Supply of speech secrecy equipment by BEL

1578. SHRI MURLIDEORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Electronics Ltd. supplied speech secrecy equipment to Air Force at a cost of Rs.4.47 crore during December, 1996 to January, 1997;